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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

842nd Engineer Company hosts 40th Anniversary Celebration and dining out

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The 842nd Engineer Company (Horizontal) will host a 40th Anniversary Celebration in conjunction with its 2nd Annual Dining Out on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

The unit's commander and first sergeant are inviting all past commanders, first sergeants and retirees of the 842nd Engineer Company to join them at the upcoming celebration.

The 842nd Engineer Company started 40 years ago in January 1968 and currently has its headquarters in Spearfish with detachments in Sturgis and Belle Fourche. Throughout the past 40 years, the unit has held detachments in Lead, Deadwood and Lemmon. Since the unit was organized, the Soldiers of the 842nd Engineer Company have supported the emergency response for every natural disaster in the Black Hills region and many across the state.

The 842nd has a distinguished list of awards:

- South Dakota Unit Citation (Rapid City Flood) - 1972
- Eisenhower Trophy (Best Engineer Unit in South Dakota) - 1976, 1978, 2001, 2002
- Itschner Award (Best Engineer Unit in the U.S. Army) - 1977, 2001
- Philip A Connelly Award (best dining/mess section) - state winner three times, runner up in the 5th Army Region in 1996 and won the 5th Army Region in 1997
- Maintenance Excellence Award - 1999
- Supply Excellence Award -runner up for 1994
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (Operation Iraqi Freedom) - 2004

The 842nd had numerous Soldiers volunteer for deployment during the first Gulf War in 1990-1991, and the unit mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. During this last deployment, the Soldiers of the 842nd Engineer Company spent 14

months between Kuwait and Iraq with the majority of the deployment at Baghdad International Airport.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the unit will host its dining out on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center. The cost is \$25.00 per plate and interested attendees must RSVP no later than Friday, Nov. 21. For additional information and to make your reservation, please contact Sgt. 1st Class Dave Burr at (605) 737-6215 or Sgt. 1st Class William (Blaine) Anderson at (605) 642-6121 ext. 7310.